Deliberation on National Food Security Act

184. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had recently convened a conference of State Food and Civil Supplies Ministers at New Delhi to discuss drought as well as the proposed National Food Security Act;

(b) if so, the details of discussions held in the conference and the outcome thereof;

(c) whether the implementation of the National Food Security Act has been badly delayed; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and further strategies envisaged for the implementation of the Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) A Conference of State Food, Civil Supplies and Sugar Ministers was held in New Delhi on 19.08.2009 to discuss various issues related to impact of deficient rainfall on kharif production, procurement of foodgrains for central pool, functioning of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), the price of sugar and the proposed National Food Security Act. State Governments were requested to take various measures such as reducing taxes on foodgrains procured, effectively checking diversion and leakages of subsidized foodgrains under TPDS, continuous review of Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) lists to eliminate bogus ration cards, strict enforcement of the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act,1955 and the Prevention of Black Marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980, etc. In regard to the National Food Security Act, it was explained that joint efforts of the Central and State Governments through an agreed strategy would be required and suggestions in this regard of the State/Union Territory Governments would be considered while formulating the new law.

(c) and (d) At present Government is examining various aspects of the proposed National Food Security Act.

Measures to check prices of Foodgrains

185. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:

SHRI D. RAJA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the measures taken by Government since the end of the last Budget Session to keep prices of foodgrains, sugar, pulses, etc. under control; and